

The Village Steeple

From the Pastor's Desk:

Why Do We Do That?



Several times in the last few weeks, a child has come up to me after the service and asked what my stole meant. I explained that it meant I was a pastor in the church, and that all the symbols on it meant something. I had a chance to explain to these kids why my stole was a certain color and what the fish, wheat and cross symbols meant. It was a great way to share a little more about our faith with the youngest in our community.

Afterwards it got me thinking, though. How many times do we as adults have a question about why something is done a certain way in the church? How often do we wonder if there is a story behind something, but feel too self-conscious to ask?

This Week's Lectionary Texts

14th Sunday in
Ordinary Time

2 Kings 5:1-14

Psalm 30

Galatians 6:7-16

Luke 10:1-11

I think it happens more than we realize. As children our curiosity is encouraged. We are allowed to ask all the questions we need to ask. But as adults we sometimes wonder whether we should already know the answers. We worry that we'll sound uneducated or ignorant if we ask.

In seminary I found myself sometimes assuming that everyone knew why something was done a certain way. Gradually I realized that when I asked questions, everyone else was wondering the same things. No one knew the answers, but no one wanted to admit it.

The church has a 2,000 year history. In that time a variety of customs, traditions and practices (continued)

THIS MONTH'S BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

July 5 – Harriet Hamilton

July 5 - Mikie Schwartz

July 27 – The Kuruczs

July 29 – Chuck & Jill Gentilin

July 31 - Marge & John Thurber

Pastor's Note (continued)

have developed. And sometimes the same practice can look very different from one denomination to another. And, if you're anything like me, you may have wondered exactly why certain things are done in certain ways.

There is a story behind almost everything we do in Christian worship and life together. For example, when a baby is born we in the UCC baptize them, but some of our Christian brothers and sisters have a dedication instead. Why?

When worship is planned for Sunday morning, certain Scripture passages are read. How are they picked?

If you are ever in the hospital, I will likely be wearing my clergy collar when I come to visit you. Why do some clergy members

wear clericals and what do they mean?

If you've ever wondered these things, or thousands more like them, you are not alone. The church can be a confusing place not just for newcomers, but for folks who have gone their whole lives.

If you have a "why do we do it that way" question, I encourage you to ask. A lot of other people probably are wondering the same thing. Send me an e-mail, and I will answer the questions as received in this newsletter. Your name will not be mentioned (unless you wish for it to be), but you (and others) will get the answers you need.

Remember, your teachers were right: there are no "dumb" questions. A willingness to ask the questions needed to understand our faith is the sign of a healthy spiritual life.

This Week's Link:

The Revised Common Lectionary



Most mainline Christian denominations follow the lectionary to determine Sunday Bible readings. Each Sunday offers a lesson from the Old Testament, Psalms, an Epistle and a Gospel. The exception is in the aftermath of Easter where there are no assigned Old Testament readings for several months. In UCC churches, generally only one or two texts are chosen to be read each Sunday.

<http://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/>

Calendar

Sunday, July 4

Worship at WDCC, 9am
Coffee Hour, 10am
Bible Study, following coffee hour

Wednesday, July 7

Coffee Hour, 8-10am

Thursday, July 8

Trustees Meeting, 6:45pm

Saturday, July 10

Blessing of the Bikes, 9:30am
A.A., 8pm

STAYING CONNECTED

Your pastor is available to you at all times of day and night, and particularly in emergencies.

If you or a loved one are sick, hospitalized or in crisis please call (802) 258-1143 at any time.

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